

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

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AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: THAI GOVERNMENT DEVELOPS BROAD PROGRAM TO CUT OPIUM
PRODUCTION IN NORTHERN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 15026

1. SUMMARY: ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED CONSIDERABLE
EMPHASIS ON ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITY IN THE FOURTH FIVE-
YEAR PLAN (1977-81) AND IN DEVELOPING ACTION PLAN TO
REDUCE OPIUM PLANTING IN THAILAND BY 50 PER CENT BY 1979
AND 90 PER CENT BY 1981. INITIAL FOCUS OF ACTION PLAN,
SCHEDULED TO BEING OCT 1, 1977, IS MAE CHAEM DISTRICT
IN WESTERN CHIANG MAI PROVINCE, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT
HALF OF THAI OPIUM PRODUCTION. ACTION PLAN WILL INVOLVE
EXTENSION OF PREVIOUS SUBSTITUTE CROP RESEARCH, SIMPLE
ROAD AND TRAIL CONSTRUCTION, DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETING
COOPERATIVE, PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM, AND PUBLIC EDUCA-
TION ACTIVITY. ROLE FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN PROGRAM
IS ENVISAGE, EITHER BY PROVISION OF FUNDS OR EQUIPMENT.
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CHAIRMAN OF SUB-COMMITTEE DEVELOPING ACTION PROGRAM HAS
INDICATED NEED FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE IN BOTH LONG AND
SHORT TERMS. MISSION DESIRES TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THIS
THAI INITIATIVE AND HAS SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATION FOR LONG-
TERM ASSISTANCE OUT OF FY79 BUDGET. SINCE ACTION PLAN IS
DUE TO BEGIN SHORTLY, WE ALSO RECOMMEND USE OF CCINC FUNDS
FROM FY77 BUDGET TO OBTAIN 10 CATERPILLAR TRACTORS AND 100

GASOLINE-POWERED

CHAIN SAWS FOR IMMEDIATE USE, ON ESSENTIAL ROAD AND TRAIL
CONSTRUCTION, END SUMMARY

2. ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS
ON BROAD PROGRAM OF ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITY IN THE FOURTH
FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1977-81) AND IN AN ACTION PLAN BEING
DEVELOPED CURRENTLY BY SUB-COMMITTEE OF NARCOTICS COORDIN-
ATING BOARD UNDER DR. PHISIT WORA-URAI, VICE-RECTOR OF
CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY. ACTION PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED IN
OUTLINE FORM BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY
CABINET. IT IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OCT 1 AND AIMS AT
REDUCING OPIUM PLANTING BY 50 PER CENT BY 1979 AND BY 90
PER CENT BY 1981.

3. ACTION PLAN, FOCUSED ON OPIUM-PRODUCING AREAS OF
NORTHERN THAILAND, ENVISAGES EXTENSION OF PREVIOUS CROP
SUBSTITUTE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETING COOPERATIVES,
A PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM, AND PUBLIC EDUCATION. BULK OF
FINANCING OF ACTION PLAN WILL COME FROM REGULAR THAI BUDGET.
A ROLE FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IS ENVISAGED, EITHER IN THE
FORM OF FINANCIAL HELP OR EQUIPMENT, BUT SPECIFIC NEEDS
HAVE NOT YET BEEN FULLY IDENTIFIED BY THAI PLANNERS.

4. ACTION PLAN SPECIFICALLY AIMS AT ENDING OPIUM CULTIVA-
TION IN 200 TO 300 VILLAGES IN RUGGED, MOUNTAINOUS MAE CHAEM
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DISTRICT, IN WESTERN PART OF CHIANG MAI PROVINCE, WHERE
SURVEYS INDICATE HALF OF THAI ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF ABOUT
50 TONS OF OPIUM ORIGINATES. PLAN IS TO ESTABLISH 12
CENTERS IN MAE CHAEM DISTRICT, CONNECT THEM BY SIMPLE,
LATERITE-BASE, GRAVEL ROADS TO NATIONAL HIGHWAY NETWORKS,
AND, WHERE NECESSARY, MOVE POPULATION, BY MEANS OF PER-
SUASION, TO LIVE WITHIN RADIUS OF 10 KILOMETERS OF EACH
CENTER. VILLAGES WILL BE CONNECTED TO THE 12 CENTERS BY
TRAILS PASSABLE BY ANIMALS AND, IN MANY CASES, WILL SIMPLY
INVOLVE WIDENING OF EXISTING NETWORK OF FOOTPATHS, USING
HAND TOOLS (PERHAPS INCLUDING SMALL, GASOLINE-POWERED
SAWS). FULLER DETAILS ON ANTI-NARCOTICS SECTION OF FOURTH
FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND ON ACTION PLAN BEING DEVELOPED WILL BE
SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM, (BANGKOK A-173 OF JULY 12, 1977).

5. IN DISCUSSING ACTION PLAN WITH EMBOFF JULY 6 DR. PHISIT
SAID THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OBTAIN FROM FOREIGN
SOURCES TRACTORS (HE MENTIONED D-4 OR D-6 CATERPILLARS)
FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE IN THE 12 CENTERS
IN MAE CHAEM DISTRICT. HE ENVISAGES ONE TRACTOR, WITH
APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT, IN EACH CENTER. TWO TRACTORS ARE
ALREADY ON HAND, BUT AN ADDITIONAL 10 TRACTORS WOULD BE

HELPFUL, IN EXPEDITING CONSTRUCTION OF ESSENTIAL ROADS.

6. LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE: IN VIEW OF OUR CONTINUING, DEEP CONCERN OVER BOTH PRODUCTION AND TRADE IN ILLICIT NARCOTICS IN THAILAND AS WELL AS OUR DESIRE TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VIABLE ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVE TO OPIUM POPPY GROWING IN THIS VERY BACKWARD REGION OF THAILAND, USAID/THAILAND IS PREPARING A PROJECT IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT (PID) FOR A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT IN MAE CHAEM WATERSHED AREA. THIS PROPOSED PROJECT FOR DOLS 2,221,000 HAS BEEN REVIEWED FAVORABLY BY THE MISSION AND WAS DESCRIBED IN PARA 2(A) OF BANGKOK 15026. THIS EFFORT WOULD GET UNDER WAY IN FY 79 AND WOULD BE FUNDED WITH AID FOOD AND NUTRITION FUNDS.
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7. SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE: AS NOTED ABOVE, CHAIRMAN OF SUB-COMMITTEE DEVELOPING ACTION PROGRAM HAS INDICATED THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR 10 TRACTORS FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE AT THE PROJECT SITE. THE MISSION BELIEVES THAT THERE IS A GOOD CASE FOR OUR PROVIDING 10 TRACTORS TO RTG FOR THIS PROGRAM AS EVIDENCE OF OUR DESIRE TO ENSURE A GOOD START TO THIS WELL-CONSIDERED THAI PROGRAM. AN ESSENTIAL, SUBSIDIARY FEATURE OF PLAN IS CONSTRUCTION OF TRAILS WIDE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE PACK ANIMALS, FOR WHICH WE MIGHT USEFULLY PROVIDE 100 GASOLINE--POWERED CHAIN SAWS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSED USAID PROJECT AND THIS SHORT-TERM, CCINC-FUNDED COMMODITY REQUEST ARE CONSISTENT AND DO NOT RPT NOT OVERLAP.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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